ADJUSTMENT IN PUBLIC SECTOR OUTLAYS IN EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

2469. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had stated recently that in view of the unsatisfactory response from the private Indian and Foreign investors in the infrastructure sectors, the public sector outlays will have to be stepped up; and

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission proposes any adjustment in the Eighth Five Year Plan towards this end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) The approved public sector outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97) envisages adequate provision for infrastructure sector subject to resource constraint and after allowing for possibility of private participation in sectors like energy, telecommuncation etc. Since projects in the infrastructure are characterised by long gestation period, it is now too early to assess the impact of investment already made on such projects during 1992-93 and 1993-94 (April—November).

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING POVERTY LINE

2470. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister for PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group on estimating the poverty-stricken population in the country has suggested the guidelines and criteria for determining the people living below poverty-line;

(b) if so, the details of these criteria/guidelines; and

(c) whether any assessment about the number of people living below poverty line as per 1991 has been made; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations of Expert Group are given in the enclosed statement. (see below)

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission estimates the State-wise number of people living below poverty line on the basis of quinqennial survey on household consumer expenditure coducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest estimates of poverty are based on the quinquennial survey held in 1987-88. As such, the estimates of poverty in 1991 are not available.

STATEMENT

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON PROPORTION AND NUMBER OF POOR

The main recommendations of the Group are as follows :

(1) The Poverty Line recommended by the Task Force on projection of minimum needs and effective consumption demand namely, a monthly per capita total expenditure of Rs. 49.09 (rural) and Rs. 56.64 (urban) at 1973-74 prices be adopted as the base line. This was anchored in the recommended per capita daily intake of 2400 calories per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per day in urban areas with reference to the consumption pattern as obtained in 1973-74. The Group has further recommended that these norms may be adopted uniformly for all States.

(2) State specific poverty line should be estimated as follows. The standardised commodity basket corresponding to the poverty line at the national level should be valued at the price prevailing in each State in the base year, i.e. 1973-74. For updating poverty line to the